

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
July 25, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Thomas Powanda called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Municipal Building. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Supervisors, Chairman Thomas Powanda, Vice Chairman David Moyer, Supervisor Romnie Long, Solicitor, Joan London, Esquire; John Weber of LTL Consultants, Nick Volk of Systems Design Engineering, Township Manager, Susan Brown, Tax Collector, Brenda Breidigan, Township administrative assistant, Maria Eddinger, and (24) members of the public were in attendance.

Absent: *None*

TAPING OF MEETING

The meeting was recorded as an aid in the preparation of the minutes. It was stated that Maria Eddinger; Township administrative assistant was taping the meeting this evening as well as public resident Bill Piersol.

SPECIAL REQUEST

Camp Camino-Request for Preliminary Plan Approval

- *Zack Morano, of Hamburg & Rubin, and Tyler Quick, engineer of All County and Associates Representing Camp Camino, were available for any questions. They asked that the request for Preliminary Plan Approval be granted, stating sewer and stormwater plans are ongoing, based on LTL & SDE recommendations.*
- *John Weber of LTL, stated that issues not related to sewer and water, they would be comfortable with moving forward with the Conditional Preliminary Plan Approval.*
- *Nick Volk of SDE, stated that the sewer water site plan looks good. Everything onsite looks good and are ok to move forward with Conditional Preliminary Plan Approval for onsite only. Offsite pump station needs DEP approval.*

A motion was made by Vice Chairman David Moyer and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long to grant the request of preliminary plan approval for Camp Camino conditioned upon the SDE review letter dated 7/23/2024 and LTL review letter dated 7/18/2024 and upon entering the construction security agreement.

All ayes

A motion was made by Vice Chairman David Moyer and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long for the Camp Camino pre-plan approval construction security agreement to allow site work prior to final plan approval upon receipt of signed construction security agreement.

All ayes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Silberman- EAC- Additional Recycling container, this request is on tonight’s agenda under new business, will comment once addressed.

Tara Christman- Inquired about firework permit/laws. Joan London, Township Solicitor addressed that the PA State Law in regard to firework legalization have changed in past few years. Fireworks being set off must be at least 150 ft from any occupied structure. The township does not issue permits for fireworks. Any concerns of safety should be directed to the State Police.

Kathy McCluskey- Thanked the Board of Supervisors for hearing her and for their quick response and follow through to her request from last months BOS meeting to remove the “No Motor Vehicle” signs posted at several locations at the Cubbler Court open space near her personal property.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 27, 2024

A motion was made by Supervisor Romnie Long, and seconded by Vice Chairman David Moyer approving the BOS regular meeting minutes of June 27, 2024.

All ayes

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

A motion was made by Vice Chairman David Moyer, and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long to approve the payment of all bills for the General Fund, Highway Aid Fund, Recreation Fund, Street Light Fund, Traffic Impact Fund, Sewer Fund and Building Escrow Funds up to and inclusive of July 25th 2024, and to file the treasurer’s report for audit.

All ayes

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collectors Report for the month of June, 2024, presented by Tax Collector, Brenda Breidigan:

Real Estate Tax	\$ 22,857.49
Interim Tax	\$ 1,035.25
Light Tax	\$ 123.00
Hydrant Tax	\$ 37.34
Per Capita Tax	\$ 66.00
Amusement Tax	<u>\$ 14,434.42</u>
Total	\$ 38,553.50

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

The EBFD and Bally EMS Reports were included in the binders.

- **Concerns regarding lack of hydrants at Natalie Circle-**
 - *EBFD representative suggested a dry hydrant be installed as there is no public water source for standard fire hydrants to be installed. These homes within the development all have private wells and public sewer only. Vice Chairman David Moyer stated it will be looked into as the County and DEP would need to be contacted.*
 - *It was suggested by Chairman Thomas Powanda that the township purchase the pipe and EBFD offered to install the pipe for the dry hydrant using water supplied from the nearby Perkiomen Creek NW B.*
- **Cul-de-sac parking concerns-**
 - *EBFD was informed that the day the concern of cul-de-sac parking was observed; the residents were having their driveways worked on. Not an ongoing concern at this time.*

ZONING/SEO REPORT

Reports are in the binders.

SEWER ENGINEER'S REPORT

A copy of the Sewer Engineer's Report is enclosed.

- **WWTP Sewer Facility Operations-**
 - *Continue single tank operation with no issues.*
- **Butterfly Valve and actuator replacement update-**
 - *Expected delivery next week and will be installed immediately and 2nd tank will be brought back online.*
- **Chapter 94 Report update-**
 - *DEP acceptance letter on June 28, 2024 no comments, no issues in the report. Fulfilled our obligations for DEP reporting for last year.*
- **SBR tank cleaning and rail system update-**
 - *Completed July 12, 2024 and will be executed for the second tank once brought back online.*
- **Sludge Hauling Contract update-**
 - *Awaiting quotes/bidding specifications*
- **BlueScope Construction request for payment:**
 - *Application No. 2-\$153,144.66*
 - *Application No. 3-\$160,866.00*

A motion was made by Supervisor Romnie Long, and seconded by Vice Chairman David Moyer to approve payment Application No. 2-\$153,144.66 and payment Application No. 3-\$160,866.00

All ayes

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

A copy of the Township Engineer's report is enclosed

- *Completed preliminary project plans and project budget per previous month's meeting approved request by the board per Mark Bedle for the Niantic Road/ Washington Park Pedestrian Safety Improvement & ADA Access Project and DCED Multimodal Grant. The application required preliminary plans be submitted to qualify.*
- **Edison Walk, update on progress with municipal improvements including pavement, curbs and stormwater-**
 - *John Weber met with Mr. D'Angelo's paving contractor today July 25th 2024, discussed the extensive base repair work to begin August 5th, 2024. Sugar Maple Rd up to Old Rt 100, and sewer repair work have begun. Expected to take 2 weeks.*
 - *Second notices to residents are being worked on and will be distributed due to logistical issues that will occur during this project.*
- **2024 Road project update-**
 - *Roadmaster, Brian Mohr previous concerns that some areas of the Victoria Village recycled road were not acceptable have been fixed and the project has been completed to the Roadmaster's satisfaction. Final wearing course paving to be completed August 7th, 2024.*
 - *John Weber addressed the Board requesting that they approve the final payment be made for the cold in-place recycling, to Recon Construction Services, Inc.*

A motion was made by Vice Chairman David Moyer and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long, to pay the remaining 50% balance of the \$432,864.65 invoice dated May 31st, 2024 to Recon Construction Services, Inc for the cold in-place recycling project in Victoria Village.

All ayes

- **Stormwater basin maintenance-**
 - *On Notice- letter sent to resident at 261 Weinsteiger Rd to complete stormwater basin maintenance repair work by August 31st, 2024.*
 - **Public comment- Kathy McCluskey-** Stated concern about people dumping on this location as well. Mr. Weber said this was being addressed also.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- **Reserve at Bally Springs-Fire hydrants-**
 - *Joan London, Solicitor stated this is a privately owned and operated water system within this development. Valley Run Water Service company is responsible and liable for these specified hydrants, as well as the HOA. These parties are both required to meet regulations provided by the PA PUC. Also contacted Rotelle to advise them of the situation.*
 - **Public comment- no name given or recorded-** Expressed concern about water pressure and inquired about who's responsible for the hydrants.

- *Joan London referred to the above statements in response to these concerns.*

A motion was made by Chairman Thomas Powanda and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long to authorizing the Solicitor to send letters to the public utilities Valley Run Water Company and Aqua America for records of hydrant testing information be forwarded to the Township annually.

All ayes

- **WWTP expansion agreement update-**
 - *Township Solicitor Joan London received a letter signed by a Managing Partner of Advest Financial, Griffin Haviken. The letter stated that Advest Financial will be providing financing for the Edison Walk Development advising Advest intends to fully fund the reservation of capacity and expansion agreement within 30-45 days of the letter. Will continue to keep the Board posted.*
- **Solar Ordinance Validity Challenge update –**
 - *Zoning Hearing Scheduled for August 29, 2024 6:00 PM at the Washington Township Municipal Building.*
- **Township review of ordinances and codification project- Ongoing**

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Report enclosed

- **Grants-**
 - **Grant status-Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Resolution No. 2024-24**
 - *Mark Bedle thanked John Weber/LTL for his prompt work on the preliminary plans received as requested for the Niantic Road/Washington Park Pedestrian Safety Improvement & ADA Access Project needed to qualify the Township to apply for the DCED Multimodal Grant in the amount of \$117,302.00.*

A motion was made by Vice Chairman David Moyer and seconded by Supervisor Romnie Long to adopt resolution NO. 2024-24 to apply for the Grant from DCED in the amount of \$117,302.00.

All ayes

- *Discussed other new grant opportunities and grant project suggestions of what improvements could be made at the Township parks with available grant money if awarded. Funds available range from \$25,000-\$1,000,000 opportunities from Berks County and PA State grants.*

- **Park Field Rental Agreements –**
 - *Continuing to work on revising the Park Field Rental Agreements to be more standardized, up to date and inclusive of updated fees. The Township is looking to increase the current field use rates per year, which do not cover all maintenance fees the Township incurs. The revised draft rental agreements must be fully reviewed by Solicitor Joan London, approved and then presented to the corresponding clubs prior to the beginning of the year.*
- **Events-**
 - *1st Plant, Veggie Swap & Farmers Market is advertised to be held August 3rd, 2024*
- **Previous Recommendations Updates-**
 - **Draft Rules and Regulations & Draft Trail Easement-**
 - *Joan London stated marked up draft of the Parks Rules and Regulations Ordinance is ready for review next month and may consider advertising in September.*
- **New Recommendations-**
 - **None**

SUPERVISORS UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Public works garage project update**
 - **Plumbing quotes-**
 - *Quotes not received in time for presentation tonight will revisit at BOS Workshop Meeting scheduled for August 8th.*
 - **Gate quotes-**
 - *Received quote from Security Fence Co. for Public Works Building gate for \$12,400.00 and the Admin Building gate for \$6,070.00, totaling \$18,470.00. This quote does not include electrical work per Roadmaster Brian Mohr.*
 - *Received quote from Pro Max also for the Public Works Building gate for \$16,856.00 and the Admin Building gate for \$6,435.00 totaling \$23,291.00. This quote would include the electrical work.*

A motion was made by Chairman Thomas Powanda and seconded by Supervisor Rommie Long to accept the Security Fence Company quote for the total amount of \$18,470.00 for both the Public Works Building and Admin Building Gates.

All ayes

- Vice Chairman David Moyer also recommended a cap of \$1,200 for electrical quotes.

- **Garage door aprons-**
 - *Only one quote received. Board requested additional quotes at the direction of Solicitor Joan London.*
- **War Memorial needed repairs-**
 - *Ongoing, possible grant money may be available to assist in these repairs. Mark received an email from a representative of Berks County Monument Preservation Fund advising that quotes for the repairs need to first be obtained and then presented back to them. Mark will get quotes for both relocation including repairs and repairs only.*
- **Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit(s)-**
 - *Received the new AED units from Bally Ambulance; delivered last week by Mike Groff. Also contacted Cintas to remove the existing AED rental unit. There has been no response from Cintas to this request.*
- **Waste Water Treatment Plant roof repair-**
 - *Chairman Thomas Powanda to visit the location and evaluate next week.*

NEW BUSINESS

- **Barto Park Pavilion dusk to dawn lights price quote-T.L. Conrad-**
 - *T.L. Conrad quote provided in the amount of \$1,500.00.*

A Motion was made by Supervisor Ronnie Long and seconded by Chairman Thomas Powanda to approve the T. L. Conrad quote in the amount of \$1,500.00 for installation of Pavilion dusk to dawn lighting fixtures.

Aye-Supervisor Ronnie Long

Aye-Chairman Thomas Powanda

Opposed-Vice Chairman David Moyer

- **Rose Gross proposal of traffic light at Route 100 & Hoffmansville Road or Route 100 & Stauffer Road-**
 - *Manager Susan Brown received a phone call from Rose Gross requesting the backing of the Township Supervisors for the proposal of traffic light at Route 100 & Hoffmansville Road or Route 100 & Stauffer Road. PennDOT would need to approve and Rose Gross would need to be responsible for the cost/payment of the proposed traffic light for the Supervisors to back her request.*
- **Highway Occupancy Permit-2243 Old Route 100, Authorization to execute-**
 - *Chairman Powanda asked for a motion and no motion was made.*
 - *Nick Volk, SDE and John Weber, LTL commented that plans need reviewing.*

- **EAC request for additional (3rd) recycling container-**
 - **Public Comment – Jerry Silberman** was asked to be lead spokesperson on behalf of our EAC. Expressed the need for an additional container since the paper recycling container was removed. There has been an overflow in the 2 remaining containers causing them to have to store in separate smaller containers in the barn. Also stated that the need for the additional container is for the benefit of our residents as they are very appreciative to have access to these containers as it affirms that their recyclables are truly being recycled and saves them money.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman David Moyer and seconded by Chairman Thomas Powanda to grant the \$500 additional cost for the 3rd container to be added to for the remainder of 2024.

Aye- Vice Chairman David Moyer
Aye- Chairman Thomas Powanda
Opposed- Supervisor Ronnie Long

- *Chairman Thomas Powanda reiterated that these recycling containers are for Washington Township residents only and we must enforce this, suggested a large sign be displayed saying “Residents Only”.*

It was suggested by Vice Chairman David Moyer to have flyers made and handed out stating “Residents Only”.

- **Public Comment**
Dan Stauffer- Thanked and expressed his appreciation to the Township for continuing this program and commended them on the great job they’ve done.
- **Disposal of electronic tape recordings-Resolution No. 2024-25-**
 - *Manager Susan Brown and Solicitor Joan London stated this is recommended by PSATS*
 - *It was suggested by Vice Chairman David Moyer to keep the recordings for a year and will look into PSATS and their recommendations personally.*
 - *The board has decided to table this Resolution.*
 - **Public Comment**
 - **Dan Stauffer-** Stated that in the history of the Township under past management he was able to obtain recorded tapes of the meetings. Stated he thinks it is a bad idea and asked that we do not delete the recordings. Believes this should be part of the public record. Also stated concern the minutes may not be completely accurate.

- **Bill Piersol**- Stated concern that the suggestion of deleting recordings once the minutes are approved, could be prior to someone knowing that they may need to request a copy of a recording for litigation. Also stated concern the minutes may not be completely accurate as the recordings, since the minutes are an edited version of the recording.
 - **Joe Kincade**- Stated that the OOR states any resource that is created by the Township must be preserved by the Township, and should give him the right to ask for any recording and documents. Through the Township recording the meetings, they are now creating a Township record that should be made available if requested.
- **Telephone system upgrade-**
 - *Galco Business Communication quote received, Manager Susan Brown presented the potential savings if we switched now vs waiting post 2025 budget planning.*
 - *The Board has decided to table this until the August 8th, 2024 BOS Workshop meeting.*

SUBDIVISION/PLANNING

None

SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT EXTENSIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Copy of the ARB Delinquent Account Report is enclosed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board of Supervisors Workshop meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 8th, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

The next regular Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None needed

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Supervisor Romnie Long and seconded by Chairman Thomas Powanda, to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown
Township Manager/Secretary